

Applicant : Ryo Inoue et al.
Serial No. : 09/823,276
Filed : March 29, 2001
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Attorney's Docket No.: 10559-393001 / P10258;
APD1875-1-US

REMARKS

The comments of the applicant below are each preceded by related comments of the examiner (in small, bold type).

4. Claims 1-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Thomas, Jr., U.S. Patent Number 5,535,346 (herein referred to as Thomas).

5. Referring to claim 1, Thomas has taught a method comprising in a processor which has a future file (Thomas Abstract, lines 6-9; column 1, line 54 to column 2, line 4; column 2, lines 12-19 and 23-51; column 4, lines 51-58; column 7, lines 9-49; column 8, lines 14-27; column 8, line 53 to column 9, line 20; Figure 3, Figure 5; Figure 6; and Figure 7) and which is capable of restoring two or more registers of the future file in a single clock cycle (Thomas Abstract, lines 6-9; column 1, line 54 to column 2, line 4; column 2, lines 12-19 and 23-51; column 4, lines 51-58; column 7, lines 9-49; column 8, lines 14-27; column 8, line 53 to column 9, line 20; Figure 3, Figure 5; Figure 6; and Figure 7). Thomas has not explicitly taught restoring two or more registers of the future file over more than one clock cycle when a termination occurs in the processor. However, Thomas has disclosed in column 2, lines 12-19 a future file that "requires numerous cycles to correct its data in the event of an exception" but has a faster lookup for operand data and a future file that "requires only one cycle to correct the data stored in the future file in the event of an exception" but has a slower lookup for operand data. This would have suggested to a person of ordinary skill in the art to create a future file that incorporates both advantages. Then the device would benefit from both advantages dependent on the condition of the system. The future file would have faster exception handling and slower look-ups for data operands when there is a higher chance of an exception and fewer look-ups, but would have faster look-ups for data operands and slower exception handling when there is more look-ups and lower chance of an exception.

Claim 1 has been amended. As explained in the specification, multiple registers of a future file can be restored in multiple clock cycles at a lower peak power consumption level than is used to restore the registers in a single clock cycle. Thomas is silent as to the peak power consumed in restoring the future file. Thomas does not describe and would not have made obvious "reducing peak power consumption ... by restoring two or more registers of the future file over more than one clock cycle ... at a second peak power consumption level that is lower than [a] first peak power consumption level," where the first peak power consumption level is that used when restoring the registers in a single clock cycle.

8. Referring to claim 7, ...

11. Referring to claim 15, ...

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Claims 7 and 15 have been amended and are patentable for at least similar reasons as claim 1.

6. Referring to claim 2, ...

7. Referring to claim 3, ...

10. Referring to claim 8,...

13. Referring to claims 4, 9, and 16, ...

14. Referring to claims 5, 10, and 17, ...

15. Referring to claims 6, 12, and 19, ...

16. Referring to claims 11 and 18, ...

17. Referring to claims 13 and 20, ...

18. Referring to claims 14 and 21, ...

All of the dependent claims are patentable for at least the reasons for which the claims on which they depend are patentable.

Canceled claims, if any, have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Any circumstance in which the applicant has addressed certain comments of the examiner does not mean that the applicant concedes other comments of the examiner. Any circumstance in which the applicant has made arguments for the patentability of some claims does not mean that there are not other good reasons for patentability of those claims and other claims. Any circumstance in which the applicant has amended or canceled a claim does not mean that the applicant concedes any of the examiner's positions with respect to that claim or other claims.

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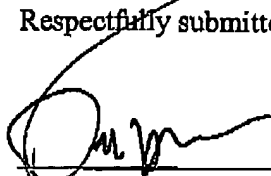
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No fees are believed due at this time. Please apply any other charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: _____

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